

THE TRIBUNE HAS A LARGER BONA FIDE CIRCULATION AMONG SCRANTON BUSINESS MEN THAN ANY OTHER MORNING PAPER

THE STORM'S
HAVOC AND
DESTRUCTION

Angry Waters of the Pennsylvania Rivers Break Away from All Restraint.

SUSQUEHANNA ON A RAMPAGE

The Juniata, Schuylkill and Lehigh Are Also Affected by the Storm.

A LOSS OF LIFE AT POTTSVILLE

General Devastation Along the Line. Railroad Traffic Delayed--Bridges Washed Away--Canal Basins and Reservoirs Burst and Mills Are Obligated to Close--Great Damage to Crops Upon the Lowlands of the Wyoming Valley--Sixty Million Feet of Logs Washed Away at Williamsport--Notes of the Inundation at Other Sections.

WILKES-BARRE, May 21.

THE heavy rainfall that has been raging here since Saturday last has somewhat subsided this evening, though the downpour continues. At 8 o'clock tonight it is estimated that nearly three inches had fallen since Sunday morning alone, which has thoroughly soaked the earth throughout the Wyoming valley. The Susquehanna river at this point tonight is rising at the rate of a foot an hour, and is now fifteen feet below low water mark. The flats on the West side will, from present indications, be flooded before tomorrow morning. Should this occur communication by roadway between here and Kingston will be cut off, which will also interfere with the Barmen & Bailey circus from giving a performance on Wednesday next at West Side park.

Great Damage and Loss of Life at Pottsville.

POTTSVILLE, May 21.--The storm continues as furiously as ever throughout this county, and there are no signs of abatement. Every colliery of the Reading company, except East and Preston No. 2, near Ashland, and Beckwood, near Pottsville, were idle and it is not expected to be able to work even there tomorrow. The collieries of the Lehigh Valley Coal company and all of the individual operators are also filled with water. The damage to collieries and railways cannot be correctly estimated, but it will certainly be over \$100,000. The Reading company being the heaviest losers by 75 per cent. Pumps cannot work on account of the flood, except those on the surface, and the most effective ones are in the dikes.

Only one train has arrived on the Reading this evening. The Schuylkill river was never so high as it is now. The turnpike below here is flooded and teams passed through water up to their bodies. Reports of loss of life are now coming in. John Brown, aged 17 years, was drowned this evening while trying to cross a creek at Forestville. Edward Evans, an old man, is reported drowned near Hackettsville. A big gray camp near Tremont was washed out today and several members are missing. Among these are a woman and her new born babe.

This evening Pottsville met her first great disaster though there were no fatalities. An abandoned mine drifted located on Sharp mountain was with with Schuylkill water. This augmented by the heavy floods from the mountains caused the drift to break. The large body of water washed down the mountain side taking with it a small dam. This water all rushed into the big grounds surrounding the mansion of Mrs. F. P. Knecher. The water struck the house and flooded the cellar and the ground floor. The elegant furniture and that part of the house were wrecked. A family named Scott was also washed out and lost their all by the flood. The Reading railroad has had badly damaged at least twenty bridges in this county besides much havoc with embankments.

The Lehigh Navigation Canal Basin Bursts at Easton.

EASTON, Pa., May 21.--The rushing waters from the swollen Lehigh river overflowed the basin where the Lehigh canal and Delaware divisional canal meet at this city early this morning. All day the stream gained in volume and velocity. This evening thousands of people gathered along the banks to watch the water struck the house and flooded the cellar and the ground floor. The elegant furniture and that part of the house were wrecked. A family named Scott was also washed out and lost their all by the flood. The Reading railroad has had badly damaged at least twenty bridges in this county besides much havoc with embankments.

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At 7 o'clock the basin outlet lock in the Delaware river was torn away and its huge stone walls and lock house fell crushing into the Delaware. The loss to the Lehigh Coal and Navigation company is very great and navigation is entirely at a standstill until the big basin can be repaired.

Bursting Reservoir at Kittanning Point Gives Altoona a Fright.

ALTOONA, Pa., May 21.--Last night was a time of considerable excitement and uneasiness for those who were about, and for those who were asleep in their beds the morning brought startling news. It was almost midnight when word first reached the city that Kittanning Point reservoir had broken and that Hollidaysburg and Gayport people were in danger of being drowned. This news was soon denied, and then further investigation proved its partial truthfulness.

There had evidently been a cloud-burst near the head of the reservoir, which is in reality a large dam, and an immense wave of water rolling down plunged over the breast of the dam, and in an instant cut out four channels averaging fifteen feet in width and eight feet in depth. This, it was thought by those who saw it, would so weaken the structure that the entire dam would go hence the excitement of the outlook was great.

Fortunately, however, the force of the wave was soon spent, and as there seemed to be none to flow and the water ceased to run, the breast of the dam, and the rain also slackened in its violence.

Collins & Martin, who have the contract for building the new impounding reservoir a short distance below the present one, have a large force upon the grounds and these have all been removed to higher ground in order to insure their safety. Immediate steps are being taken to strengthen the dam in every way possible, and it is believed these efforts for its preservation will prove successful.

Taken all in all, the incidents of the storm have been a repetition of those connected with the floods of 1889, but at this writing the loss of life is fortunately not to be added as at Johnstown in that year.

Six Schooners Swept by the Current Down the Schuylkill.

PHILADELPHIA, May 22.--The flood that has swept down the Schuylkill all day has been gathering strength and volume with each hour, and tonight the river is raging like a mountain in torrent. Above the dam at the city water works the river is wide and it had room to spread over the grass lawns and driveways of Fairmount park and the damage there is confined principally to washouts on the drives. Below the dam the river is confined to a channel about half the width of above by lines of wharves on either bank. At that part the waters overflowed the wharves and backed up into the streets and houses two squares from the banks.

The water is three feet deep over the tracks of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, and two feet of water covers the ground floor of the company's station at Twenty-third and Chestnut streets. The flats on the West side will, from present indications, be flooded before tomorrow morning. Should this occur communication by roadway between here and Kingston will be cut off, which will also interfere with the Barmen & Bailey circus from giving a performance on Wednesday next at West Side park.

At Nesquehanna, ten miles from here, the creeks are swollen and trains on the Pennsylvania railroad are being held until the bridges can be tested to see if they are thoroughly safe. A serious washout is reported on the Lehigh Valley railroad near Mauch Chunk, and trains over this road this afternoon are very late in consequence. Throughout the country districts great damage has been done to the crops by the strong winds, which has nipped everything in its way.

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Sixty Million Feet of Logs Float Out of Williamsport.

WILLIAMSPORT, May 21.--The great boom here broke early this morning and 60,000,000 feet of logs were swept away. The Susquehanna river has risen to thirty-three feet and there is a 6-foot flood through many of the streets in the city. The Pennsylvania Railroad bridge over the river is standing the pressure solidly, but the city bridges have been badly damaged. Four spans of the Market street bridge have been washed away and three of the four spans of Maynard street bridge have gone. Both are iron structures, and the pecuniary loss will be heavy. No lives have been lost here. A number of small boats were capsized today, but all of the occupants, many of whom were endeavoring to save logs and other property, were rescued.

Waters Rising at the Rate of Eight Inches an Hour at Lewisburg.

LEWISBURG, Pa., May 21.--The sweeping torrents that yesterday bounded over the banks of the Susquehanna river continue to rise at the rate of eight inches an hour. In a few hours it will be as high as it was in 1889, and the heavy rains that fell yesterday last night and which continued today will no doubt swell the deluge at least four feet higher. The whole Susquehanna valley is inundated and the destruction and devastation is widespread.

Lock Haven, Williamsport, Milton and Sunbury are in great distress, being under five feet of water, with the water to come. The water works, gas works and electric light plant, which are located along the river, have been stopped, and until the flood recedes, the town will be without water or light of any kind.

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FLOOD BOUND AT SUNBURY

Thrilling Experience of Scranton Pilgrims to the State Convention.

PERILOUS TRIP ACROSS A BRIDGE

In the Endeavor to Reach the Capital City the Excursionists Cross a Railroad Bridge at Night in a Blinding Storm--While Balancing Themselves Above a Raging Torrent They Witness the Destruction of a Bridge Nearby--A List of the Enthusiasts.

Editorial Correspondence Scranton Tribune.

SUNBURY, Pa., May 21.

THE Scranton contingent of delegates and enthusiasts which left at 2:38 for the Republican state convention at Harrisburg encountered an unpleasant experience at Nesquehanna, when the No. 10 Pennsylvania express in charge of Conductor Ferguson drew up on the bank of Nesquehanna creek and discovered that the bridge was on the point of leaving its pier. After several hours of parleying it was finally decided to cross over to Berwick, take the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western to Northumberland and proceed on the Philadelphia and Erie to the Capital City. When after another delay Northumberland was reached, another obstacle was encountered, there being no communication with Sunbury save by the Pennsylvania railroad bridge and loaded coal cars were kept standing on the track to keep the bridge in place.

Piloted by trainmen with lanterns the Scrantonians crossed this bridge at 10 o'clock, clambering over the coal cars and crouching under archways while on the middle pier the bridge over the west branch just below gave way with an immense crash. When the party after extreme difficulty in a blinding rain storm reached Sunbury it was to ascertain that no trains were running on the Harrisburg division and will not run until some time tomorrow.

The Scrantonians were reinforced by Mayor Connell who was suddenly called away by the submerging of his Shamokin colliery, and staying at the Neff House. Those comprising the party which underwent this experience were: Lieutenant Governor Walter, ex-Lieutenant Governor W. T. Davies, of Towanda, Delegates Everett Warren and T. M. Francis, of Lackawanna; and George H. Lancaster, of Wayne; and the following convention visitors: J. A. Woodbridge, of Dalton, ex-Senator Lines, of Great Bend, Register S. S. Wright, of Susquehanna; Select Councilman E. E. Robathan, Prothonotary C. E. Pryor, Journal Clerk Fred W. Elitz, Adjutant W. S. Miller, Milton W. Lowry, Chairman John H. Reynolds, of the First district legislative committee; Representative John R. Farr, ex-Representative Hagar and G. L. Waltz, of Wayne; Clerk of Courts John W. Thomas, Representative Kimmer, of Athens; Representative Burritt, of Susquehanna; School Controller James A. Evans, of Scranton; Morgan Thomas, the Hyde Park merchant; Landlord Gerard Snyder, of Pittston; and Will Fashen, also of Pittston.

The entire country for miles is submerged. Traffic in all directions has been abandoned. No trains are running either to Erie or Altoona and the flood is constantly increasing.

VISITORS ARRIVING.

General Hastings and Friends on the Battle Ground Early.

HARRISBURG, Pa., May 21.--The trains belated by the big floods will roll into the city during the night with the Pittsburgh and other western delegations who are coming via Cumberland, Md., to the Republican state convention. General D. H. Hastings, General James A. Beaver and the Centre, Blair, Huntington and other county delegations arrived on an special train at 11 o'clock tonight.

General James W. Latta, of Philadelphia, who will be nominated for secretary of internal affairs, Congressman Robinson is making a stiff fight for Lieutenant governor, Giles D. Price, of Erie, and other candidates have also opened their headquarters.

M'PHERSON'S MEN STRIKE.

Reduction in Wages Causes Trouble at His Mill.

STROUDSBURG, May 21.--Senator McPherson, of New Jersey, is having trouble with the men employed at his mill at Minsi. On Saturday a cut was made of 25 per cent in all the departments. The men became noisy when the cut was announced and late on Saturday a gang of them turned the hose into the recovery furnaces, which renders the mill completely useless until the fire is rekindled.

The feeling against Senator McPherson among the employes is bitter. Superintendent George W. Savers has gone to New York to consult with McPherson's representatives.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Theological Seminary Control the Subject of Debate.

SARATOGA, N. Y., May 21.--"Theological Seminary Control" was the order fixed for today's session of the general assembly. The debate began at 10 o'clock when Dr. Willis D. Craig, of McCormack Theological seminary, on the floor, Dr. Craig supported the majority report, which recommends the amendment of seminary charters so as to give the assembly the right of approval or disapproval of directors or professors of seminaries and the right of control over their endowments.

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More discharges will be made this week.

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Two Men Fatally Shot in a Lively Battle.

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The shooting took place at a resort kept by John Kelley, who was the son of a family feud between the Kelleys and the Raffertys, another family, of unsavory reputation. Just what started the row today is uncertain. James Rafferty, who is known as "The Desperado," got in the first shot at the son of Proprietor Kelley, but was himself wounded, and before the battle was over, his body contained five bullets. Both of the Kelleys, father and son, were shot, and the former, as well as Rafferty, is fatally wounded. Several bystanders were slightly wounded during the fusillade.

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Young Peck and Betzold engaged in a dispute on the West Mountain some time ago and Betzold was severely beaten on the head with a rock. Peck was arrested last Tuesday and required to furnish bail for his appearance at court.

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Mrs. Peck charges Betzold with having publicly asserted that she stole his chickens, and she asks \$2,000 for the injury done her reputation by the scandalous charge. An action was begun for her yesterday against Betzold by Attorneys Ward and Horn. He was taken into custody late in the afternoon by Deputy Sheriff Griswold.

ANOTHER REAL ESTATE DEAL.

John A. Meare Has Purchased the Dr. Gates Property.

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In real estate circles it was said that Harvey & Dean bought the Gates lot to prevent Mr. Meare getting possession of it. Mr. Meare's intention of erecting a sky-scraping office structure at the corner of Washington avenue and Spruce street was well known. It was said that if Mr. Meare secured the Yates lot and extended the area plan of the new office building, it would interfere with the now unobstructed rear light of the buildings of Harvey & Dean on Spruce street facing the square.

When Harvey & Dean secured the Gates property they made no denial of the fact that it was to protect their present Spruce street buildings from being darkened in the rear. Now that they have sold the property to Mr. Meare, and that the building in which the Gilsey baths are located is also sold, the real estate men are again talking and wondering what it all means.

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Judge Gunster in an Opinion Sustains the Carbondale Proceedings.

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"After careful examination of all the papers and proceedings in the case and inquiry into same we find that the proceedings appear to have been in conformity with law and the same are hereby approved."

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D. P. Thomas died suddenly of apoplexy at his home, 1805 Church avenue, at 11 o'clock last night.

Mr. Thomas was a well known citizen and active in politics. He was at one time publisher of the Scranton Blade.

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Rev. Dr. Henry Ziegler and Mrs. Ziegler, of Scranton, on Saturday enjoyed their golden wedding.

Pretty Grace Marks has sued John McKeown, a rich Bradford oil man, for \$20,000 damages for breach of promise to marry.

Becoming lost after attending the circus, at Easton, William A. Willevor, of Philadelphia, wandered upon the railroad track and was killed.

Two big fly-wheels have burst in Lyons' assembly, at Evelyn, Lycoming county, within a week, doing considerable damage to the machinery.

WAFFED OVER THE SEAS.

The British syndicate that bought the alcohol monopoly in Italy will pay \$3,700,000 a year rental.

Prince Bismarck will inspect in person this week the cuirassier regiment of which he is honorary colonel.

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